The Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Promoting College Access, Retention and Completion

Allison Jones, Vice President,
Postsecondary Collaboration

Why Does US Need Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

PISA 2012 Key Findings

(Programme for International Student Assessment)

- 34 OECD countries –
  - US performed --
    - below average in math: 26th
      - (best estimate, although rank could be between 23 and 29 due to sampling and measurement error)
    - 17th in reading (range of ranks: 14 – 20)
    - 21st in science (range of ranks: 17 – 25)
  - No significant change over time
  - US spends more per student that most countries but does not equal better performance
  - Students in US have weaknesses in performing math tasks with higher cognitive demands, e.g., problem solving in real world situations.

PARCC

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

PISA 2012 Key Findings

(Programme for International Student Assessment)

- Among 34 OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries, US performed below average in 2012 in math (rank 26) comparable with Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Spain, and Sweden
- In reading, US comparable with Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.
- **An alignment study between CCSS for Math/ ELA and PISA suggests a successful implementation of CCSS will yield significant performance gains in PISA.**

PARCC

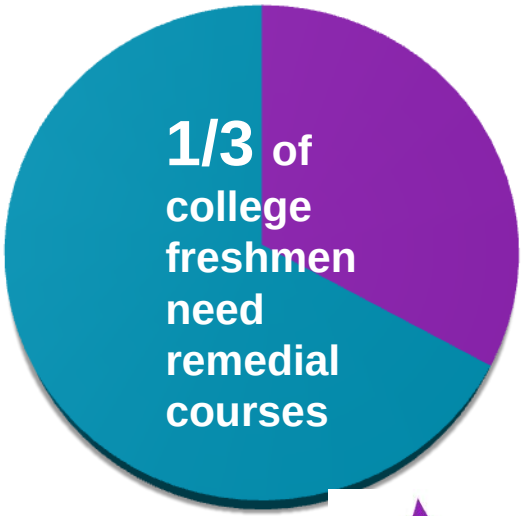
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Why Higher Standards and New Assessments *Now*?

- By the year 2020, 65% of all jobs will require some postsecondary education or training.
- To ensure future economic sustainability, we must prepare all students to access postsecondary opportunities:

- The PARCC assessment system will impact 23 million students. 9 million of these students attend Title I schools.
- CCSS and PARCC have the potential to substantially improve educational equity, postsecondary opportunity, and economic mobility if ***implemented with fidelity by K-12 and embraced by postsecondary institutions***.

- **Our K–12 system is not adequately preparing** students for college



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Overview

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Common Core State Standards

- In 2009, Governors and state commissioners of education committed to developing a common core of state K-12 English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics standards that would be aligned to the expectations of public colleges and universities

- Higher education and K-12 content experts, faculty, and researchers developed the Common Cores State Standards to address the disconnect between K-12 standards and postsecondary expectations

- The results: **a set of shared goals and expectations for what students should understand and be able to do in grades K-12 in order to be prepared for entry level college credit-bearing courses**

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Key Advances Of The Common Core

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY	MATHEMATICS
Balance of **literature and informational** texts; focus on text complexity	Focus, coherence and clarity: emphasis on key topics at each grade level and **coherent progression across grades**
Emphasis on argument, informative/ explanatory writing, and research	**Balance between procedural fluency and understanding of concepts** and skills
Literacy standards for history, science and technical subjects	Promote rigor through mathematical proficiencies that foster **reasoning and understanding** across discipline

ANCHORED IN COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

PARCC and Smarter Balanced: Goals for Higher Education

- Colleges and universities **recognize** the terminal high school assessments as valid measures of college readiness as defined by the Common Core State Standards.

- Colleges and universities **agree** on a common performance standard for college readiness as measured by the assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics.

- Colleges and universities **use** the assessments as evidence that students are ready for credit-bearing course work, to exempt students from developmental courses, and to identify students who need support in becoming college ready while they are still in high school.

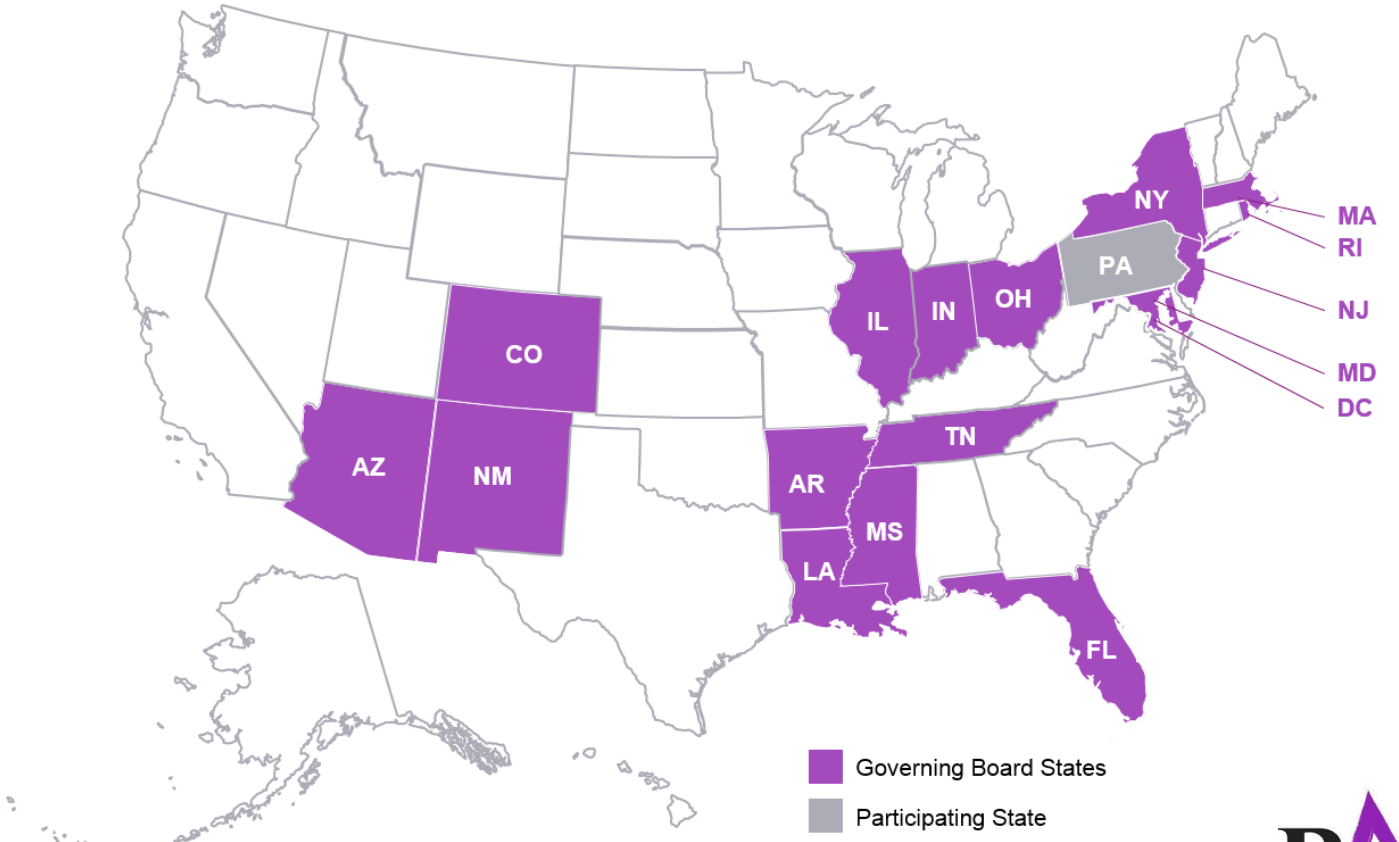
PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Overview

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

The PARCC Consortium

Governed by the education chiefs in the states



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

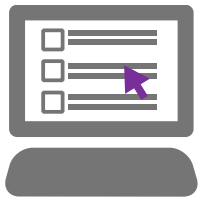
The PARCC Tests

New tests and teaching tools in English Language Arts/Literacy & Mathematics

- **Tests worth taking**, made up of **texts worth reading** and **problems worth solving**
- Full of the kinds of **questions great teachers routinely ask** students
- Closely aligned to **college- and career-ready standards** that prepare students for success after high school

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

The PARCC Tests

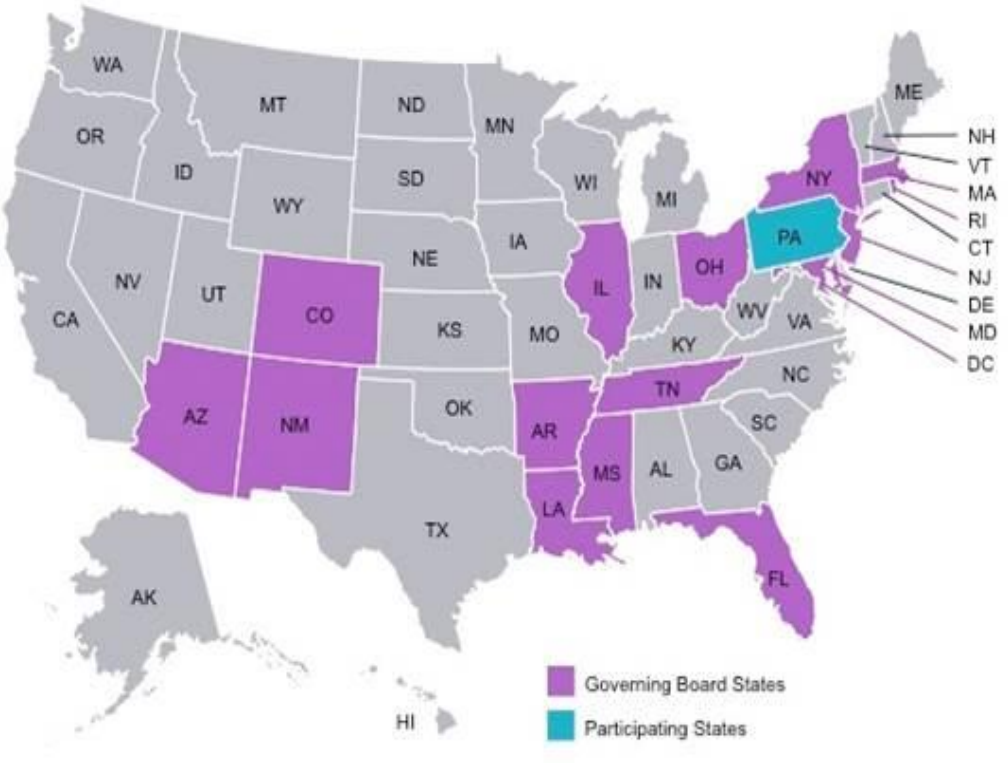


- Measure **problem-solving and critical thinking skills**
- Give **timely feedback to teachers and students** on strengths and weaknesses, allowing teachers to better meet student needs
- Determine whether students are **on track for college or career**
- Include a **writing component at every grade level**
- **Allow comparison** across schools, districts and states

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

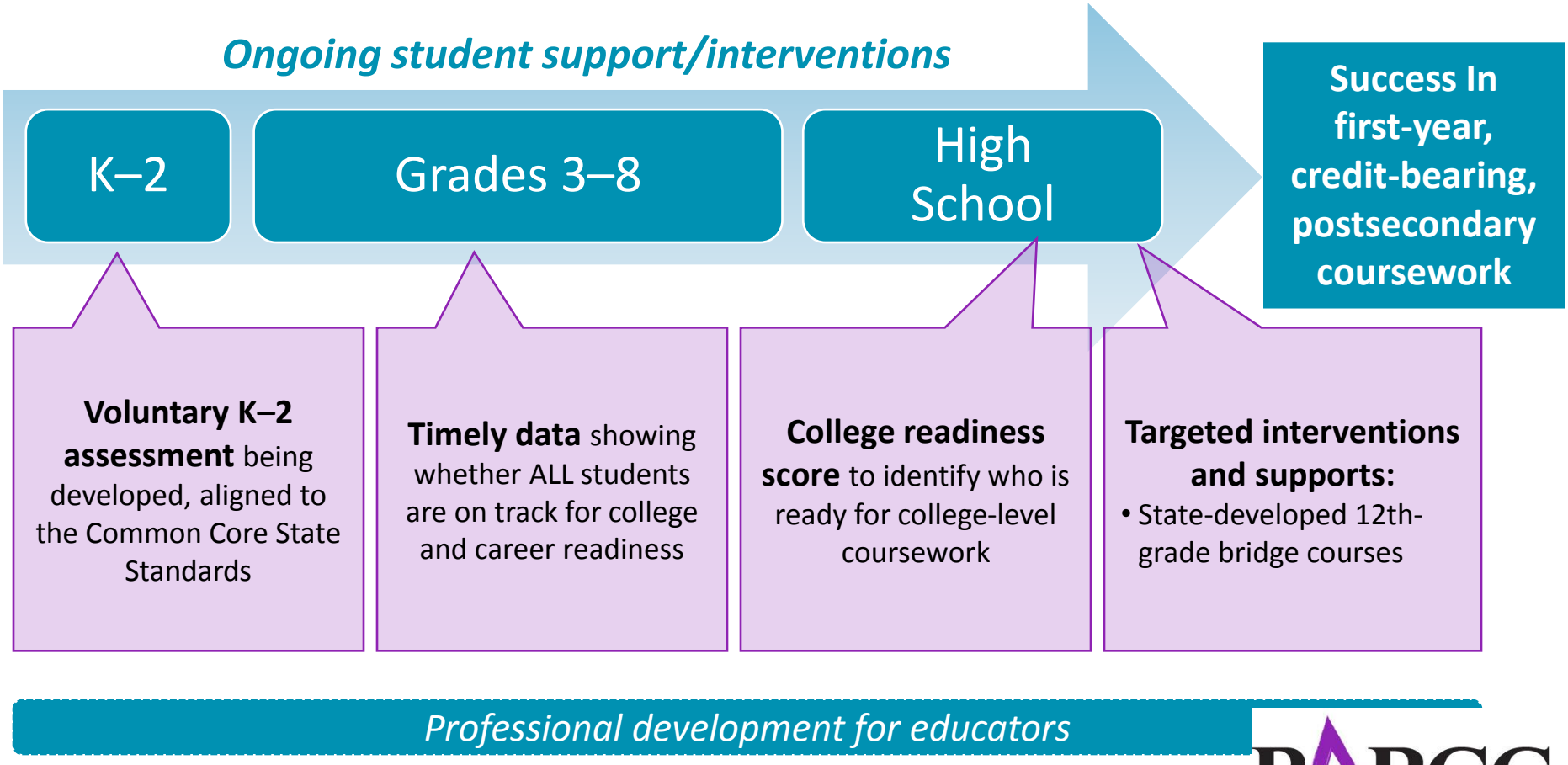
The PARCC Consortium

- **17** states and the District of Columbia
- **Aligned** to the Common Core State Standards
- **11** million students in tested grades
- **High School College and Career Ready Determination offers exempt students from placement testing and remediation**
- **Spring 2014** field testing
- **2014-2015** roll out



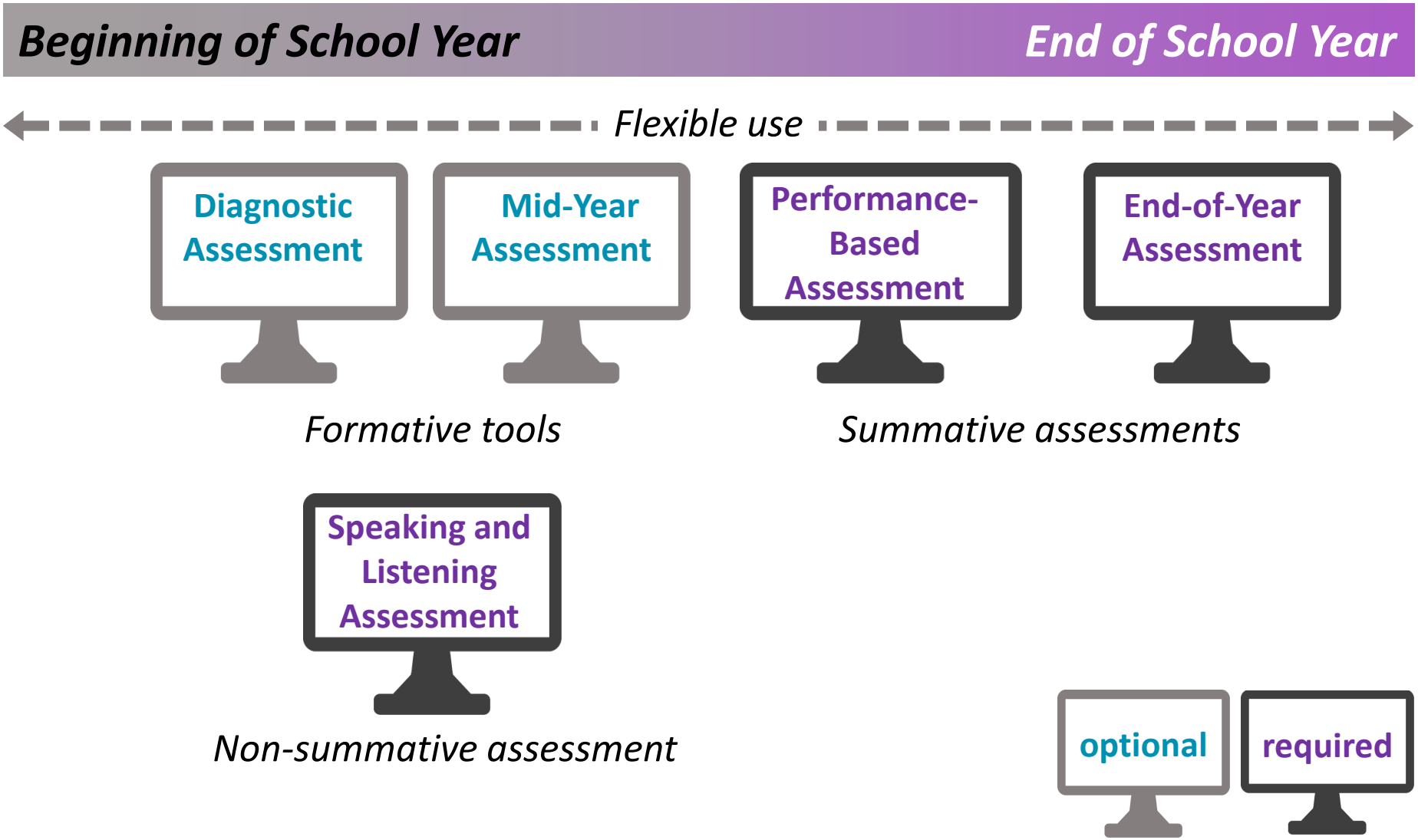
PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Getting All Students College and Career Ready



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

The PARCC Assessment *System*



Summative Components

Performance-Based Component
PBA

ELA/Literacy

Writing essays drawing evidence from sources, including multi-media

Math

Solving multi-step problems that require reasoning and address real world situations

End-of-Year Component
EOY

ELA/Literacy

Demonstrating comprehension of literary and informational texts

Math

Demonstrating understanding of concepts, fluency, and application of knowledge

PBA and EOY Combined = Total Score

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Formative Tools

Diagnostic Assessments

- **Grades 2-8**
- **Reading, Writing, Math**
- **Computer-based, adaptive**
- **Designed to pinpoint students' strengths and weaknesses**

K-1 formative tools also available

Mid-Year Assessments

- **Grades 3-11**
- **ELA/Literacy and Math**
- **Computer- and paper-based test modules**
- **Designed to mirror summative assessments and to use for instructional purposes**

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Scoring: Performance Levels

- PARCC will have 5 performance levels

- Grades 3-10:
  - 4 or above indicates a student is on track to be successful in the subsequent grade in each content area

- High school: ELA III and ALG II/ Integrated Math III
  - **4 or above is intended to exempt students from placement testing and remediation at public postsecondary institutions**
  - 3 and below may be targeted for early interventions

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

CCRD: Placement NOT Admission

A College and Career Ready Determination on the PARCC assessments indicates:

- **Mastery** of the core competencies in the Common Core State Standards identified by postsecondary education faculty as prerequisites for and key to success in entry-level, credit-bearing courses in English and mathematics
- **Readiness** for placement into entry-level, credit-bearing courses in ELA and mathematics

A College and Career Ready Determination will not:

- **Determine** admission to college or university
- **Replace** college/university tests to place students into **higher level mathematics and English courses**
- **Address** non-traditional students who delay enrollment

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

College and Career Readiness

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

PARCC and SBAC
Definitions of College- and Career-Readiness

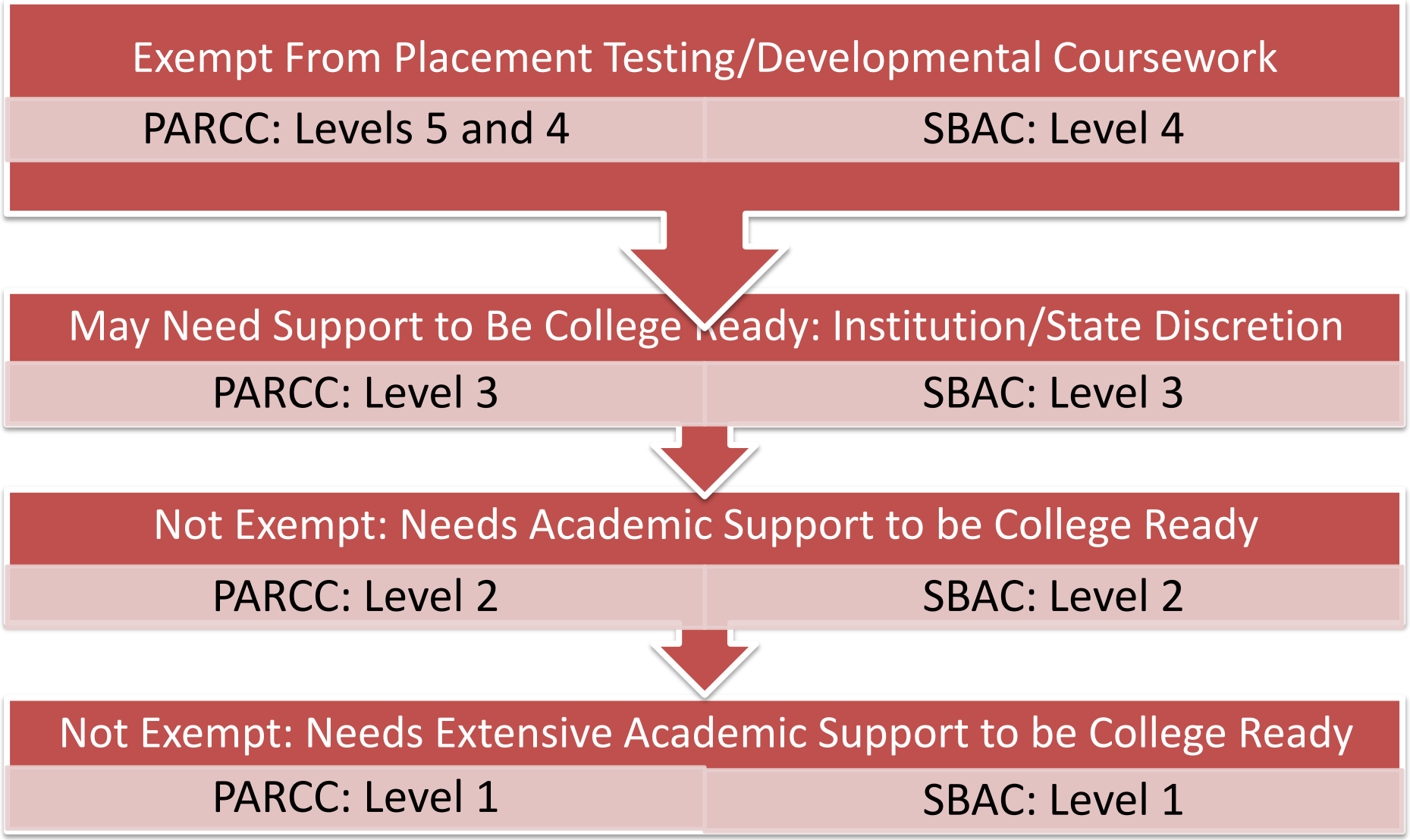
States created both the PARCC and Smarter Balanced assessments to measure the Common Core standards and establish a common definition of college readiness.

	PARCC	Smarter Balanced
ELA/Literacy	Students who earn a College- and Career-Ready Determination in ELA/literacy will have demonstrated the academic knowledge, skills and practices necessary to enter directly into and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing courses in College English Composition, Literature, and technical courses requiring college-level reading and writing.	Students who perform at the College Content-Ready level in English language arts/literacy demonstrate reading, writing, listening, and research skills necessary for introductory courses in a variety of disciplines. They also demonstrate subject-area knowledge and skills associated with readiness for entry-level, transferable, credit-bearing English and composition courses.
Math	Students who earn a College- and Career-Ready Determination in mathematics will have demonstrated the academic knowledge, skills and practices necessary to enter directly into and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing courses in College Algebra, Introductory College Statistics, and technical courses requiring an equivalent level of mathematics.	Students who perform at the College Content-Ready level in mathematics demonstrate foundational mathematical knowledge and quantitative reasoning skills necessary for introductory courses in a variety of disciplines. They also demonstrate subject-area knowledge and skills associated with readiness for entry-level, transferable, credit-bearing mathematics and statistics courses.

Source: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, "Achievement Level Descriptors and College Content-Readiness," (2012) http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievem college-readiness/; PARCC, "College- and Career-Ready Policies," (2013) http://www.parcconline.org/ccr

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Comparison of PARCC and Smarter Balanced Performance Levels for College Readiness

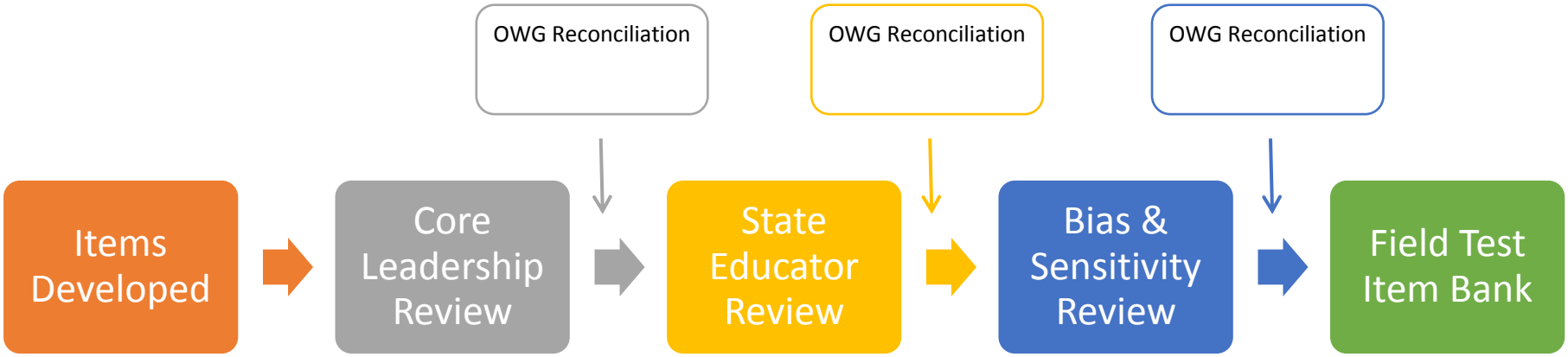


Source: Jacqueline King, "Comparison of PARCC and Smarter Balanced Performance Levels for College Readiness," Unpublished (2013), via email.

Item Development Process
Ensuring Quality

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Postsecondary and K-12 Content Experts and Educators Review Every Item



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

State Educators Review Every Item

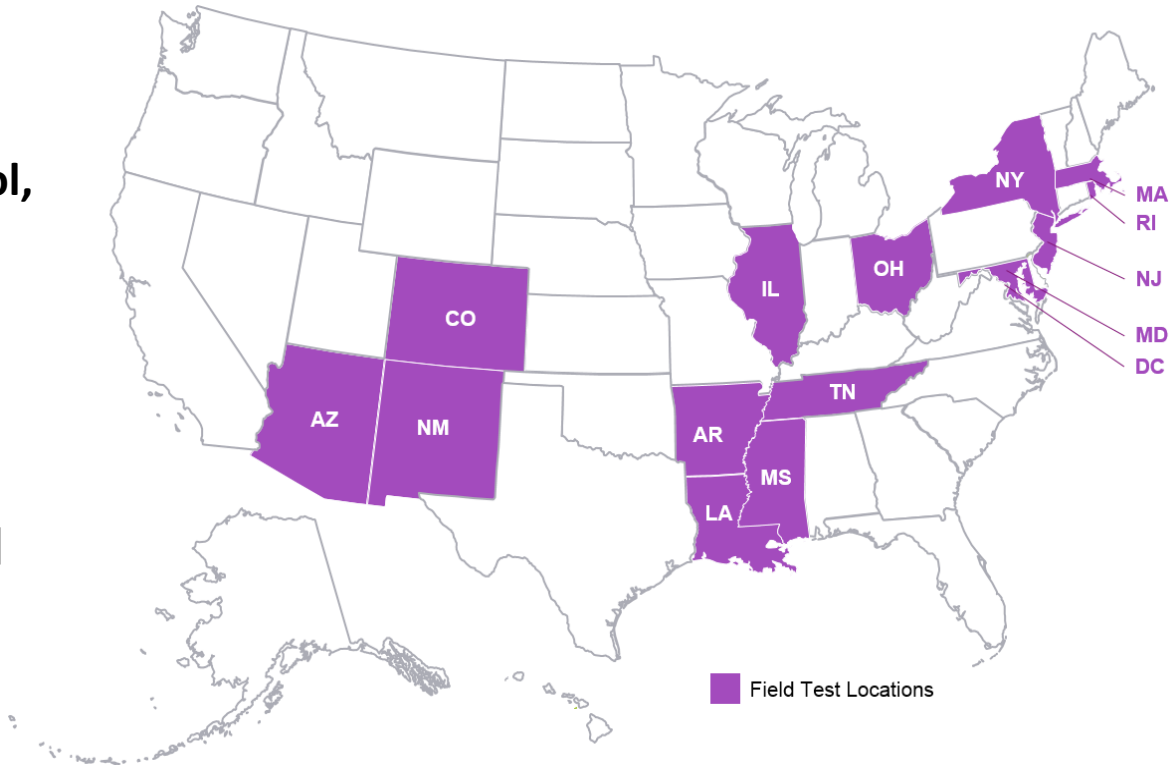
- Items are reviewed for alignment to the Common Core State Standards, suitability of content, and age-appropriateness for a given grade level or grade band.
- **Item reviewers recommend revisions and edits and only items that are approved by these teams of reviewers will appear on the PARCC summative assessments**

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Field Testing: Schools in 14 States & DC

- Over 1 million students
  - **Louisiana:**
    - **Districts: 92**
    - **Schools: 586**
    - **Students: 32,520**
    - **1-4 grades per school, 2-3 classrooms per grade**

- 10,000 items covering 21 different tests
- The field tests are designed like the full tests (PBA and EOY components)
- The field tests will take no more than 3 hours for most students

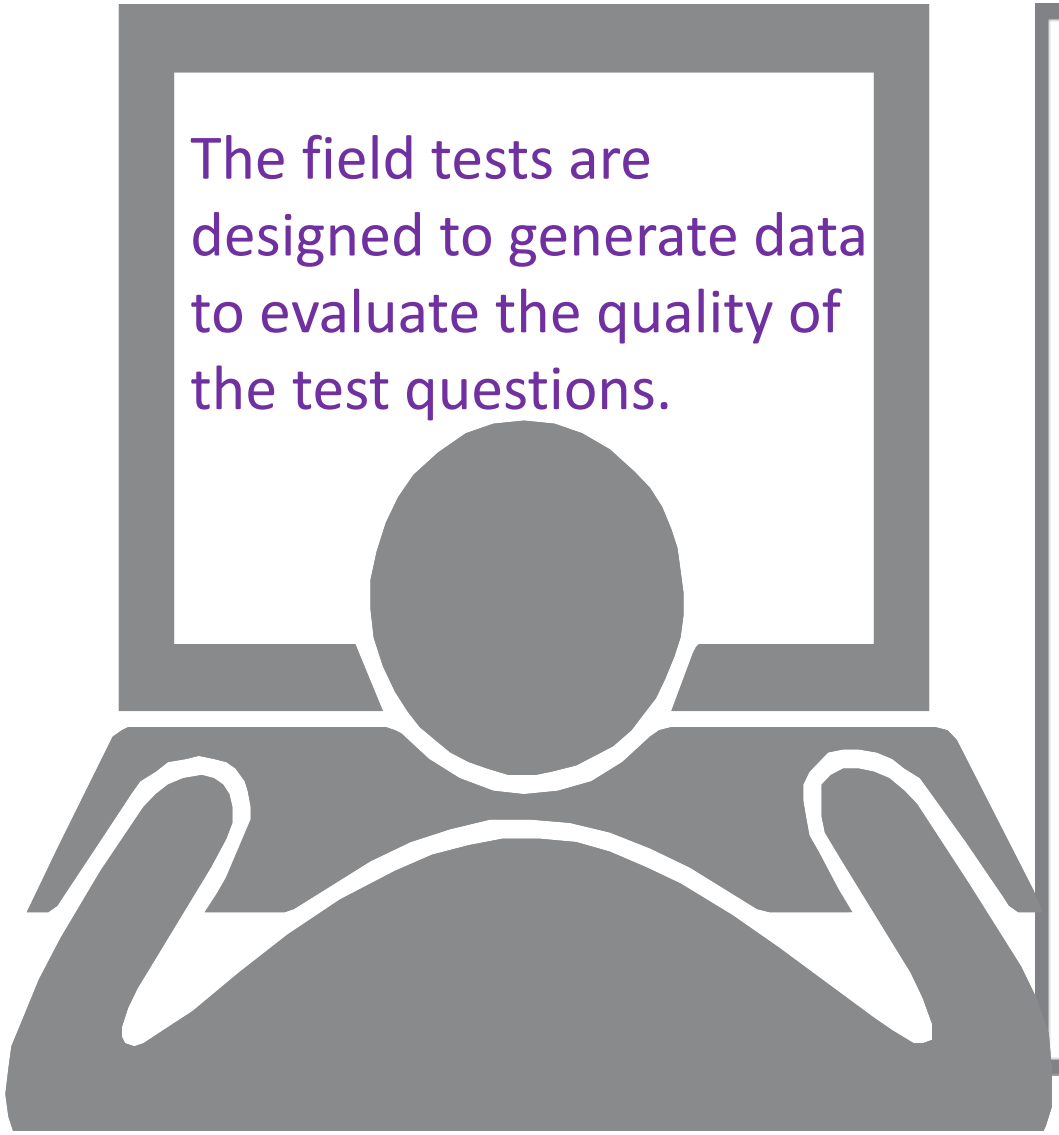


PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Purpose of Field Tests

The field tests are designed to generate data to evaluate the quality of the test questions.

- Opportunity for a number of important research studies.
- Not designed to yield individual student, school, or district results.



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Field Test Benefits

- **Students** become familiar with new item types and the test delivery platform
- **Parents** learn more about PARCC
- **Teachers** provide feedback to PARCC on “how it went”
- **Technology Coordinators** evaluate their schools’ technology systems
- **Administrators** evaluate overall readiness
- **Test Developers** measure the reliability of the test questions

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Two Windows for Field Tests

MARCH	APRIL
24	11

Field testing the **performance-based assessment,** which features writing in English Language Arts (ELA) and multi-step, real-world problems in math

MAY	JUNE
5	6

Field testing the **end-of-year assessment,** which features reading comprehension in ELA and conceptual understanding in math

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

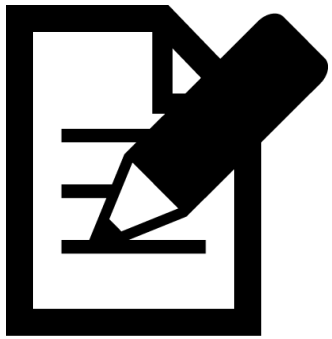
Teachers and Students Will Be Heard

- Thousands of educators across PARCC states are reviewing PARCC test questions
- The field test is another chance to provide feedback on the development of the new tests
- Students and teachers will be asked to take surveys about their experience with the field tests when they are over

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Computer- and Paper-Based Tests

- **Field Tests**
  - Most students will use PARCC's computer-based platform
  - Paper-and-pencil versions of the field tests will also be administered
- **Tests in 2014–2015 and onward**
  - Paper versions will be available for schools still in the process of gearing up
  - Goal is for all students to take PARCC assessments on computer within a few years



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers

Validating the Assessment as a Measure of College Readiness

- A level 4 on the PARCC high school assessment will be validated against the following standard:

  - **A student who earns a 4 on the PARCC assessments has a 0.75 probability of earning college credit by attaining at least a grade of C or its equivalent in entry level, college-credit bearing courses.**

- PARCC will conduct research studies to inform the standard setting and validation process including:
  - **Performance of post-secondary students study**
  - **Postsecondary educators' judgment study**

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Performance of Postsecondary Students

- **Who:**
  - Students, whose ACT and/or SAT scores are known
  - Enrolled in credit-bearing entry level courses or technical courses requiring college-level reading, writing, and mathematics
  - 3 higher education institutions each from 10 PARCC states will participate
  - Students enrolled in relevant technical courses in five PARCC states will also participate
- **What:**
  - Students will take PARCC ELA/L grade 11, high school Algebra II and/or Integrated Math III assessments in the beginning of fall semester 2014
  - Students will be followed throughout the fall semester and their end of term GPA will be gathered to determine the relationship between success in postsecondary courses and performance on PARCC.
- **When:**
  - **04/25/2014 -1/24/2015**
  - **Recruitment begins in March**

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Postsecondary Educators Judgment Study

- **Who:**
  - Instructors and/or professors teaching entry level college credit bearing courses in mathematics and ELA, and higher education admissions and/or placement specialists
  - Recruited from selective and open access institutions including two-year and four-year colleges and universities, and institutions of technical instruction
- **What:**
  - Review PARCC items provide recommendations, through surveys, about how students would need to perform on these items in order to be academically ready for entry level college credit bearing courses.
- **When:**
  - **07/07/2014 -10/17/2014**
  - **Recruitment begins in May**

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

What Does PARCC Implementation Mean for Institutions of Higher Education in Louisiana

Opportunities to Support College Readiness, Retention and Completion

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Opportunities for Higher Education

Better information about the preparation of incoming students

- Better use of 12th grade
- Reduced placement testing

Improved preparation of incoming students – from all states

- Reduced remediation rates
- Increased retention
- Reduced time to degree
- Increased degree attainment rates

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Common Core and PARCC: Benefits to Institutions of Higher Education

- The PARCC assessments will provide new information about the academic preparation of students a full year before they graduate from high school
- This presents an opportunity to decrease remediation, decrease the use of placement tests, and support student success on postsecondary campuses by:

  - **Expanding** partnerships with high schools to support students earlier
  - **Using** PARCC scores to provide targeted remediation and decrease placement testing on your campuses
  - **Accelerating** students into dual enrollment who demonstrate proficiency
  - **Exempting** students from additional placement testing at college campuses

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Opportunities for Community Colleges

Opportunity to Expand Partnerships with K-12

Scores provided while students are still in high school

- Identify students who need supports early on
- Provide supports to students who are not on track to graduate ready for college credit bearing courses **through transition courses and bridge courses**
- Identify students who could benefit from participation in dual enrollment, early college, and other concurrent enrollment programs, **increasing early college access**

Decrease placement testing on postsecondary campuses

New information about student college readiness can be used to place students into:

- College credit bearing courses
- Student supports and learning pathways
- Student success courses
- Co-requisite
- Targeted remediation

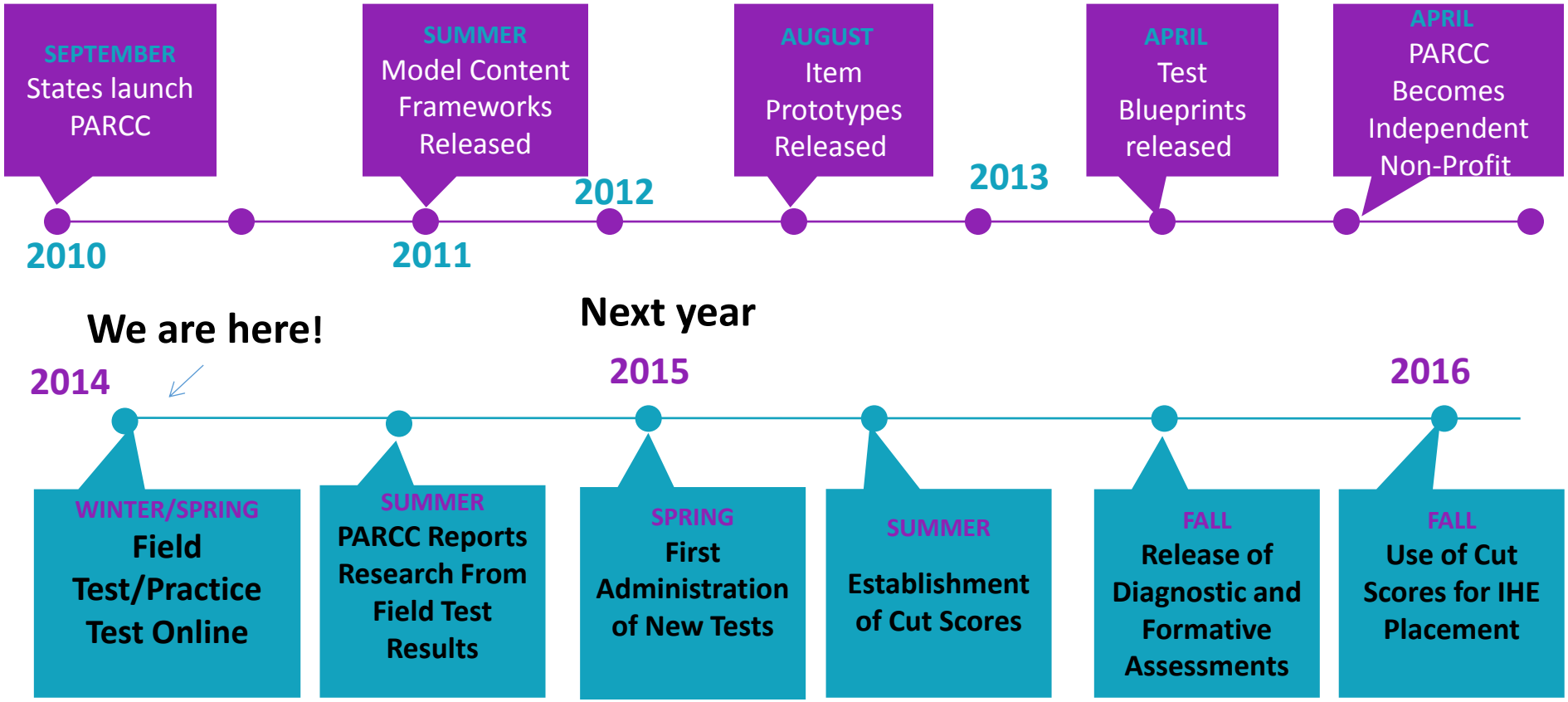
PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

How Will We Get There?

- **Increase awareness** about the assessments system on your campus
- **Familiarize faculty with the high school assessment** items and the information PARCC will provide about student college readiness
- **Identify** what information faculty and placement counselors would like to see from a new assessment of college readiness
- **Compare** information currently used to place students into student support and remedial courses with the information provided by the PARCC assessments
- **Work with K-12 partners** to identify students who need support to graduate ready to enter college credit bearing courses and collaboratively design interventions

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Next Steps For PARCC



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Key information you should leave with today…

- The PARCC assessment system is designed to provide a **valid measure of college readiness** that can be used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes
- The assessments have been **developed collaboratively** by K-12 and postsecondary system leaders, faculty and content experts
- The PARCC assessments will **provide a college readiness score** in the high school in mathematics and ELA which can be used to:
  - **Identify** and provide supports to students who are not college ready
  - **Accelerate** students into dual enrollment who demonstrate proficiency
  - **Exempt** students from additional placement testing at college campuses
- **Ways to get involved!**
  - **Postsecondary research studies (recruitment in the spring)**
  - **Item review (ongoing)**

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

The PARCC Assessments in High School Math and English Language Arts are Available on the Technology Platform

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

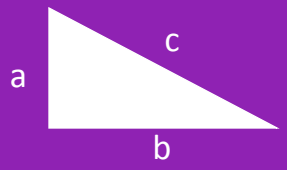
Three Types of Math Tasks

Concepts, skills and procedures

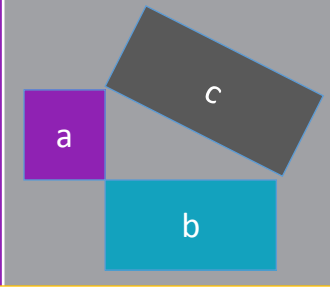
$a^2+b^2=c^2$

Mathematical reasoning

$a^2+b^2=c^2$



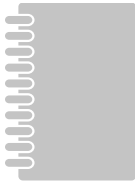
Model and apply what they know to solve problems



PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

English Language Arts/Literacy

- Students will have to:
- Show they can read and understand complex reading passages



- Write persuasively
- Conduct research and present findings

- Demonstrate speaking and listening skills

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

PARCC Algebra I/Math I Sample Item

Myla's swimming pool contains 16,000 gallons of water when it is full. On Thursday, her pool was only partially full. On Friday, Myla decided to fill her pool completely using a hose that flowed at a rate of 10 gallons per minute. It took her 5 hours to completely fill her pool.

Part A

Type a number into each box to complete the sentences.

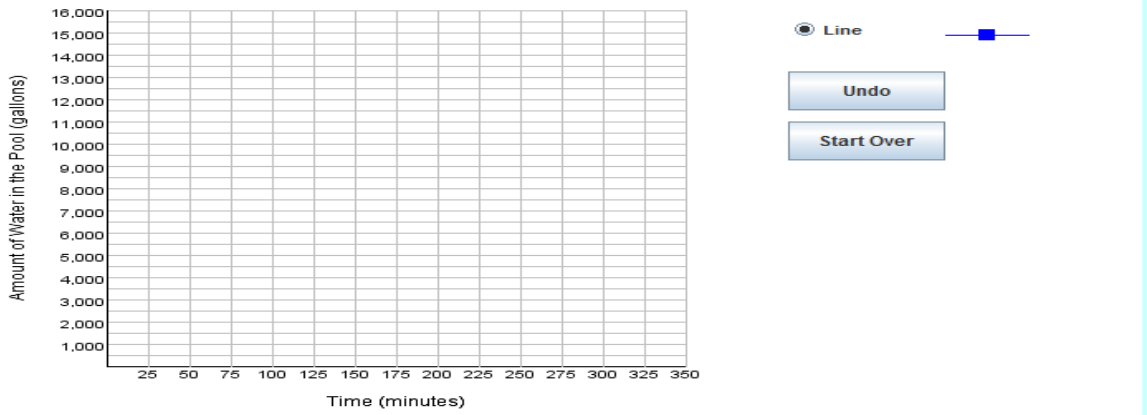
Before Myla started filling the pool, there were [ ] gallons of water in the pool.

The rate at which water is being added to the pool is [ ] gallons per **hour**.

Part B

On the coordinate plane provided, graph a linear function that represents the number of gallons of water in Myla's pool given the amount of time, in minutes, she spent filling her pool on Friday.

Select two points on the coordinate plane and the line containing the two points will be automatically drawn. You can undo your last step by clicking "Undo". You can reset the tool by clicking "Start Over".



Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

10th Grade Literary Analysis Task

- A complete Literary Analysis Task (LAT) for 10th Grade contains **seven items**, with six items that are either Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR) items or Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response (TECR) items and one Prose Constructed Response (PCR) item.
- Students will read the first passage and answer EBSR and TECR items.
- The students will then read a second passage and answer additional EBSR and TECR items.
- Having analyzed each passage separately, the students will complete their analysis by responding to the Prose Constructed Response item.
- The following items illustrate 3 parts of a complete LAT for 10th grade.

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Item 1: Evidence Based Selected Response

Students read an excerpt from, “Daedalus and Icarus” by Ovid and respond to the following EBSR questions.

Part A Question: In “Daedalus and Icarus,” what do the lines “he turned his mind to arts unknown /and nature unrevealed” (lines 9-10) imply about Daedalus and his invention?

a. that his invention will bring him wealth and fame

b. that his invention will be something beyond common understanding*

c. that the primary motive for his invention is revenge

d. that he is nervous about the success of his invention

Part B Question: Which quotation provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

a. “But Daedalus abhorred the Isle of Crete— / and his long exile on that sea-girt shore, / increased the love of his own native place.” (lines 1-3)

b. “While he was working, his son Icarus, / with smiling countenance and unaware / of danger to himself, perchance would chase / the feathers, ruffled by the shifting breeze, / or soften with his thumb the yellow wax,” (lines 17-21)

c. “. . . ‘My son, I caution you to keep / the middle way, for if your pinions dip / too low the waters may impede your flight;’” (lines 30-32)

d. “Beneath their flight, / the fisherman while casting his long rod, / or the tired shepherd leaning on his crook, / or the rough plowman as he raised his eyes, / astonished might observe them on the wing, / and worship them as Gods.” (lines 50-55)*

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Item 4: Evidence Based Selected Response

Students read an excerpt from, “To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph” by Anne Sexton and answer the following EBSR questions.

Part A Question:

In line 11 of Sexton’s poem, what does the use of the idea of “tunneling” reveal about Icarus at this point in the poem?

a. He is engaging in an intensely concentrated action.*

b. He is doomed to become the victim of an accident.

c. He is trying to visualize an impossible goal.

d. He is forced to begin a puzzling quest.

Part B Question:

Which words from Sexton’s poem best help the reader understand the meaning of “tunneling”?

a. “Admire his wings” (line 9)

b. “Feel the fire at his neck. . . .” (line 10)

c. “. . . he glances up and is caught”* (line 11)

d. “Who cares that he fell back . . . .” (line 12)

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

10th Grade Literary Analysis Task
Item 7: Prose Constructed Response

- Use what you have learned from reading "Daedalus and Icarus" by Ovid and "To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Triumph" by Anne Sexton to write an essay that provides an analysis of how Sexton transforms "Daedalus and Icarus."
- As a starting point, you may want to consider what is emphasized, absent, or different in the two texts, but feel free to develop your own focus for analysis.
- Develop your essay by providing textual evidence from both texts. Be sure to follow the conventions of standard English.

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Resources

- Common Core State Standards in New Mexico
  - http://newmexicocommoncore.org/
- Model content frameworks
  - www.parcconline.org/parcc-model-content-frameworks
- Blueprints
  - http://www.parcconline.org/assessment-blueprints-test-specs
- Sample items for every tested subject and grade
  - http://practice.parcc.testnav.com/#
- Educator Leaders Cadres: Public ELC portal for educator resources!
  - http://parcc.nms.org/
- Test Administration Training Modules: PowerPoint and voice recordings to guide test administration
  - parcc.pearson.com/tms
- Assessment Administration Capacity Planning tool
  - http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCCapacityPlanningTool_3-5-13FINAL4-12-13.x
- Practice Test: Spring 2014
  - Parcconline.org

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Learn More About PARCC

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers
www.parcconline.org

Subscribe to PARCC Newsletter at www.parcconline.org

On Twitter:
@PARCCPlace
#askPARCC & #PARCCELC

ELC Portal:
http://parcc.nms.org